

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Yanai (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,347). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the offset error of the coil not assigned to the present final position is determined. Although this was already clearly recited by the claim, Applicants have offered this further clarification. Applicants submit that this amendment does not include new matter which would require further search and/or substantive consideration.

Yanai fails to teach or suggest that the coil of the circuit for which the offset error is not being determined is not supplied with current, as recited in claim 1. Yanai discloses, at col. 9, lines 44-53, a current detecting circuit 54 which detects an actual current I_m flowing through the first electromagnetic coil 24. Then, a difference ($I_c - I_m$) between the actual current I_m and the current designating signal I_c is calculated. However, Yanai does not actually disclose when $I_c - I_m$ is determined. However, this is actually evident with reference to Fig. 4B of Yanai. In Fig. 4B, the two currents I_c and I_m are shown. The current noted as being the "designated value" corresponds to the current value I_c . The current notes as "actual current" corresponds to the current value I_m . Fig. 4B indicates that the difference between these currents is determined when the first coil is supplied with a current while the second coil is not supplied with a current. However, this is not what is being claimed in claim 1.

More specifically, Yanai teaches that the current of the coil assigned to the present final position is measured and not the current of the other coil (the coil not assigned to the present final position). Further, the difference between the actual current and the current designating signal flowing through the coil assigned to the present final position is calculated and not the offset error of the other coil (the coil not assigned to the present final position) while no current is being applied to this other coil. Accordingly, Yanai fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1.

Yanai discloses that a current detecting circuit detects an actual current through a first coil 24 when the first coil 24 is supplied with a current. The current detecting circuit disclosed in Yanai does not measure the current of the first coil when only the second coil is supplied with a current (col. 7, lines 40-53). Thus, Yanai fails to teach or suggest that the coil current of the coil not supplied with a current is measured to determine an offset error. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over Yanai.

Claim 4 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 5 and 8 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of Bosley (U.S. Patent No. 4,690,371). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 is allowable at least in view of Yanai's failure to teach or suggest the features of claim 1, and Bosley's failure to compensate for the deficiencies of Lanai.

Claim 5 recites substantially the same feature discussed above in connection with claim 1, and is thus allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable and further in view of Bosley's failure to compensate for the deficiencies of Lanai.

Claim 8 is allowable at least due to its indirect dependency from claim 5. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Yanai. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

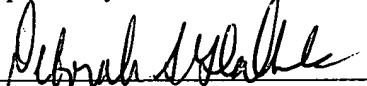
Claim 9 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1. Applicants therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122021000. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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